

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

NBC

ADVERTISER

NATIONAL FARM AND HOME SHOW

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE

PERBY RABERS #171

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET

(11:30-12:30 PM)
TIME

(OCTOBER 18, 1955)
DATE

(FRIDAY)
DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers --

ORCH: QUARTET -- RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: The period of greatest forest fire danger - the so-called "Fire season" - varies in different parts of the country. In most of the mountainous country of the West, fire danger comes with the start of the dry summer period and unless there are heavy fall rains, ends only when winter snows have come. In other sections, the fall of the year when the leaves are dropping, and the early spring before the new leaves appear on the trees are periods of special danger; and in the Southwest, Forest Rangers have more than once had their Christmas dinner interrupted by a call to go fight fire. Thus in one part of the country or another Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers have to be ready to give battle to the "red enemy" every day of the year - and the best way for us to help out the Rangers in their mighty tough job of keeping the forests green is to be careful with fire in the woods everywhere and all the time.

Up on the Pine Cone District where our friends Ranger Jim Robbins and his assistant, Jerry Quick, are on the job, fire danger is about over in the higher elevations, but down in the lower country it's still dry, and as we tune in today we learn that Ranger Jim has just received a report of another fire on his district. Here we are --

(SOUND OF RADIO SET ISSUING STATIC NOISES AND WHISTLES)

JERRY: (COMING UP) Hey, for the love of mike, what you trying to do?
Get China on that radio set?

JIM: Nope.

JERRY: Well, you're sure getting all the static in the world. (RADIO WHISTLES) Gee whiz, she darn near knocks your ears off.

JIM: We're going to find out pretty quick now, Jerry, how this new radio equipment we just got from our Portland laboratory will work out in an emergency.

JERRY: What do you mean, emergency?

JIM: We've got a fire.

JERRY: A fire! Gosh, I thought our fire worries were about over for this season. Where is she?

JIM: Down along our south boundary. I just checked up with Bald Peak lookout and we've got it pretty well located in Section 12, over near the head of Beaver Creek.

JERRY: It's still pretty dry down there. Any men on it yet?

JIM: Ernie Knight's on his way with the truck crew.

JERRY: They've sure got a tough road getting into that place.

JIM: He oughta make it though. He's got one of our SP radio sets along and they oughta get it set up pretty quick after they get there - so if it works it'll sure be a big help.

JERRY: Yeah, there isn't a telephone within ten miles of there. How big is the fire?

JIM: I don't know. The lookout says there's a lot of smoke rolling up. But that doesn't mean much in that heavy brush country. Half an acre down there can send up plenty of smoke.

(RADIO SQUEALS)

BESS: (COMING UP) My land, Jim - do you have to make all that racket?

JIM: Yep. Got a fire, Bess.

BESS: Oh Jim! Another fire!

JIM: Yep. Down on Beaver Creek.

BESS: Oh Jim, that's a shame.

JIM: Ernie's gone after it and he's got a portable radio with him. He oughta be on the air most any time now.

BESS: Why does it roar so?

JIM: I've got the volume on full force, and I'm twisting the dial here, trying to pick 'em up.

(NOISE OF RADIO UP)

JERRY: Listen - sounds like a voice in that static.

BESS: Yes, I heard it. Hurry, Jim, see if you can make it plainer.

JIM: All right. If that's Ernie, we'll soon know something about that fire.

VOICE: (OVER RADIO - UNINTELLIGIBLE AT FIRST, THEN COMES IN CLEAR AS JIM GETS TUNED IN) Calling KBCT - SP 232 CALLING KBCT - SP 232 on Beaver Creek fire calling KBCT - calling KBCT - SP 232 calling KBCT - Can you get me? Go ahead.

JERRY: Boy, that's pretty good. Didn't that come in clear after you got 'em tuned in?

JIM: Yep. Let's see if they get us now. (LOUDER, TALKING INTO TRANSMITTER) KBCT replying to SP 232 - KBCT replying to SP 232 -- KBCT answering SP 232. Your signal came in good. Your call came in good. Can you hear me all right? Go ahead.

VOICE: (OVER RADIO) SP 232 replying to KBCT. I got only the last of your message. Give me a count, up to ten, and see if I can get tuned in on you. Go ahead.

JIM: (TO TRANSMITTER) KBCT replying to SP 232 - replying to SP 232 - (SLOWLY) 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - Can you hear me now? Did you get tuned in? Go ahead.

VOICE: (OVER RADIO) SP 232 replying to KBCT. Yes, I've got you tuned in now. I can hear you fine, Jim. Here comes Ernie from the fire line. Stand by, and I'll give you some information on it soon.

BESS: My, I wish they'd hurry and let us know.

JIM: I'm afraid she's a bad one, Bess.

BESS: Oh, I hope not.

JERRY: Well, if she is a bad fire, it's sure going to help a lot being right in direct communication with the fire crew. If they had to get to a phone over that road it'd take 'em an hour.

JIM: Well, this gadget here has one advantage over a telephone anyhow. We can all hear at once. (CHUCKLES) If it was a telephone, Bess'd be hopping up and down along side, asking me to repeat everything that was said.

BESS: Now Jim --!

VOICE: (OVER RADIO) SP 232 calling KBCT -- SP 232 calling KBCT. Go ahead.

JERRY: (WITH ABOVE) There he is again, Jim.

JIM: (TO TRANSMITTER) KBCT standing by for SP 232. Go ahead. (TO JERRY) Jerry, get a pad and pencil so you can write this down.

VOICE: (OVER RADIO) We want three hundred men right away. We want three hundred men right away.

JIM: (TO JERRY) She's a bad one all right, Jerry.

VOICE: (OVER RADIO) HAVE them bring lunches for two meals and have them fully equipped with tools. Also send the tractor and fire plow and two power pumps. Did you get that? Repeat it to me. Go ahead.

JIM: (TO TRANSMITTER) I got your message. You want 300 men with tools and lunches for two meals. Also the tractor and fire plow and two power pumps. Is that right? Go ahead.

VOICE: (OVER RADIO) Yes sir, that's right. Go ahead.

JIM: (TO TRANSMITTER) We'll get things started right away. Can you give me some more information on the fire? How big is she? Is it on the ground or is it crowning in the tops of the trees? Go ahead.

VOICE: (OVER RADIO) The estimate at present is about 300 acres. Yes sir, she's in the tree tops and heavy brush and traveling fast. Down there on the fire line where the men are working the fire's roaring so loud you've got to get right close to a man and yell in his ear to make him hear you. Go ahead.

JIM: (TO TRANSMITTER) Thanks old man. We'll get your men out now. I'll leave the loud speaker on in case you call again. KBCI signing off with SP 232 and standing by for other calls.

(TO JERRY) Jerry, the plow and tractor are already loaded on the 5-ton truck. I got in touch with two truck drivers over at the warehouse as soon as the first report came in. Have the two power pumps loaded on the other truck and send 'em out pronto. Better send an extra 25 gallons of gas along too.

JERRY: Okay, Jim. Right away.

JIM: And Jerry, she's a bad one. I reckon you'd better get right out there and take charge of the fire yourself.

JERRY: (GOING OFF) Okay, Jim.

SOUND: DOOR SLAMS

JIM: Now I gotta call the camps and get the men out. Wanta send me that phone, Bess?

BESS: Yes, Jim. Here - (VOICE STARTS COMING IN OVER RADIO) Wait Jim, somebody's on the radio again.

END VOICE: (OVER RADIO) SP 145 CALLING KBCT -- SP 145 calling KBCT. Go ahead.

JIM: There's the CCC camp on the air right now. Won't have to use the phone. (TO TRANSMITTER) All right. KBCT replying to SP 145 -- KBCT replying to SP 145. Can you hear me? Go ahead.

END VOICE: (OVER RADIO) I can hear you Jim. This is Dave Parsons talking, at Camp F-1. I heard you talking with the men on the fire, Jim. We've got 100 men ready to go. How about it? Go ahead.

JIM: (INTO TRANSMITTER) Fine stuff, Dave. Send 100 men, equipped with tools, and lunches for two meals, to the fire. It's in Section 12, near Beaver Creek. Go ahead.

END VOICE: (OVER RADIO) Okay, Jim. They're leaving right now. The grub will follow. Is that all? Go ahead.

JIM: (TO TRANSMITTER) Yes, that's all. That's fine work, Dave. I'm signing off now and standing by for other calls. (TO BESS) Now we'll have to get Camp F-3 on the telephone, Bess.

BESS: It's two long and three short, Jim.

JIM: Yep. (RINGS PHONE TWO LONG AND THREE SHORT) (TO PHONE) Hello? Camp F-3? -- Hello? Camp Superintendent? Hello, Jack. We've got a fire on the south boundary of the Forest, Jack. Section 12 near the head of Beaver Creek. I want one hundred men right away. -- All right, 100 men, fully equipped with tools, and lunches for two meals. -- Be on their way in ten minutes? Fine, Jack. Goodbye. (HANGS UP) (TO BESS) Now, we'll get the Supervisor. (RINGS PHONE, ONE RING) (TO PHONE) Hello? Fire call, operator. Get me the Supervisor in Willow Glen right away, will you? -- Okay -- Hello. Hello, Bert? -- Bert, we've got a fire in Section 12, near the head of Beaver Creek. -- Yeah, she's traveling fast. -- Three hundred acres. She's plenty hot, Bert. -- Yeah, we want 300 men. I've got two hundred on the way from the CCC camps. Can you send me a hundred from the Willow Glen work camp? -- Yeah, 100 men, tools and lunches for two meals. -- Fine, Bert. How soon will they leave? -- Inside of 15 minutes? Good. Have 'em go by the Red Butte road. -- That's right. Goodbye, Bert. (HANGS UP) (TO BESS) Well, Bess, there's our three hundred men.

(INTERVAL - MUSIC)

BESS: (OFF) Oh Jim --

JIM: Yes?

BESS: (COMING UP) My, it's dark already. I didn't realize it was getting so late. -- Have you heard any more from the fire, Jim?

JIM: Not for the last hour or so, Bess. With 300 men on it now, they ought to be able to corral it during the first work period.

BESS: What is the first work period?

JIM: The first work period is the time between the discovery of the fire and the following 10 AM. We aim to have every fire controlled and corralled by 10 AM the morning after its discovery. That's the Forest Service fire policy.

BESS: But why 10 AM?

JIM: Well, you see, fires burn hotter in the daytime than at night, so if she gets too hot to stop the first day, your first big chance to close in on 'er is that night when she slows down a little - and we aim to have 'er corralled before she gets in another day.

BESS: But sometimes you can't, Jim.

JIM: Yes, I know. But in that case somebody's got some explaining to do. Maybe he didn't get out enough men or the right kind of equipment.

BESS: But that seems kind of hard on a Ranger, Jim, when he's trying to do his best.

JIM: Sometimes it is, Bess. But it's part of the game. It makes us all keep on our toes, and look for the lesson in every mistake we make. If we still don't get the fire in the first work period, in psite of everything we can do, we've got to organize to get 'er in the second work period, and if she still gets away, then the third work period, and so on. Sometimes a fire gets away from you no matter how hard you hit it, but what our fire policy means in simple terms, Bess, is that we hit 'em hard right at the start, and if they still get away, we keep on hitting 'em all the harder.

JERRY: (OVER RADIO) SP 232 calling KBCT --

BESS: Listen, Jim, they're calling us on the radio again.

JERRY: (OVER RADIO) -- Calling KBCT -- Go ahead.

BESS: Answer him, Jim.

JIM: I'm switchin' 'er over now. (TO TRANSMITTER) KBCT replying to SP 232 -- answering SP 232. Go ahead.

JERRY: (OVER RADIO) Hello, Jim. This is Jerry Quick, on the fire line. --

BESS: It's Jerry!

JIM: Yep. Listen.

JERRY: (OVER RADIO) Here's a report on the fire for you. -- The estimated area is about 360 acres. She was plenty hot this afternoon. Lots of spot fires started from the main fire but we got 'em all. The men are working close in now, and we'll have 'er corralled and start mopping up inside of an hour. -- Did you get it? Go ahead.

JIM: (TO TRANSMITTER) Yes, I got it, Jerry - you've done a fine job. Anything else? Go ahead.

JERRY: (OVER RADIO) That's all for now. Stand by for another call later. SP 232 signing off.

JIM: Well, Bess, that's pretty good news.

BESS: Yes, isn't it, Jim. I'm so glad.

JIM:

Bess, remember the old days when we'd have a bad fire? I used to have to send some one out on a Paul Revere ride to all the ranches and timber camps to get men, then rustle teams and trucks or teams, order groceries, and a dozen and one other things. -- Today we mobilized 300 men and dispatched them along with tools and grub and power pumps and tractor and plough, all inside of fifteen minutes. I'd say that was pretty fast organization. -- Bess, we're going to lick this fire business yet.

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER:

Well, it looks like Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are going right after those fires all right. But there's an old saying among Forest Rangers that "the best kind of a fire is the one that never starts." -- Next Friday Ranger Jim and Jerry will be on the air again. This program is brought to you by the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

el/10/15/35

1105 AM

